PFMD UPDATE

A BULLETIN FROM THE PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MARCH 2020

Inside this Issue

Director's Notes

Joshua Stamper, Director, Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division

As the division director for the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD), I interact with many folks that have thoughts and beliefs about pesticides that span the entire spectrum. Often it involves listening to people's fears about chemicals and then providing them with scientific information so they can make informed decisions about the risk. Sometimes, it involves giving folks data on the presence (or absence) of these chemicals in Minnesota's waters. Other times it's explaining the benefits of our Ag Water Quality Certification Program or our Waste Pesticide Collection Program. But often, I just need to shut up and listen, because most people just want to be heard.

Listening to all these different voices gives me the opportunity to reflect on all the positive aspects of the pesticide and fertilizer world, as well as places where we can do better. One area that we can all improve on is our communication (just ask your spouse). One of our statutory charges is to quantify the impact of pesticides on the environment, and every summer PFMD staff publish the previous year's Water Quality Monitoring Report. (View the report at: www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/water-monitoring-reports-resources)

In 2018, the report included 257 pages of water chemistry data. The data directs where PFMD should focus our outreach efforts through Minnesota's Pesticide Management Plan. Nobody is going to curl up with a cup of tea and read this report for pleasure, but it's an important tool for communicating to Minnesotans the risk associated with ag chemicals. If you work with pesticides, it's probably worth downloading it and just searching the electronic version (hit Ctrl + F and type in the active ingredient that you work with the most). You will be able to see whether we detect these chemicals in groundwater, surface water, and even rainfall at thousands of different locations in Minnesota. This allows you to present information to other people about the fate of these chemicals in your neighborhood. We want you to have the ability to answer other people's questions.

Why? Your neighbors are never going to ask me to talk to them about the risk from ag chemicals, but they might ask you. Being able to communicate information about risk of the chemicals that protect your crops, land, cattle, pets, or home is a powerful opportunity. The first step is to listen to their concerns and never belittle their fears. Ask questions and paraphrase their concerns back to them so that they know you have heard them. Be patient. This takes time. Then you can provide them with information about how and why you use ag chemicals, the training that you get through certification and licensure, the toxicity information on the label (signal words like Caution, Warning, and Danger), and any local environmental concerns. If you get questions that you can't answer, give them the phone number (800-858-7378) for the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at Oregon State University. They have trained professionals answering pesticide questions Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. CT. NPIC is a great resource for answering any pesticide questions.

A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER THOM PETERSEN

Working Together for Our Ag Economy and the Environment

I've worked alongside farmers for several decades, so I understand how important environmental concerns are to those in the ag industry. We have a finite amount of water and soil in our state and must work to protect both for future generations. These resources also impact farm income. However, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) can't address these concerns on our own from our offices in St. Paul any better than a farmer can tackle these regional or statewide issues from his tractor cab. We must work together.

Throughout this coming year, there will be several opportunities for the MDA, farmers, agronomists, and others in the industry to share ideas, listen, and come up with better solutions for some of the issues facing agriculture.

First, the MDA proposes to designate three pesticides as "Surface Water Pesticides of Concern": clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam. All three pesticides belong to the neonicotinoid class of insecticides and are primarily used as seed treatment on corn and soybeans. "Surface Water Pesticide of Concern" is an official designation for pesticides which are detected in surface water at levels that may adversely impact aquatic organisms under normal use. The designation triggers the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and educational activities on the use of these pesticides. We are currently in a 60-day comment period on this proposal, and I want to hear your thoughts on the issue. There is more about this topic further in the newsletter.

Second, we are beginning to form local advisory teams in areas around the state to help reduce elevated nitrate levels in drinking water supply management areas, or DWSMAs. This work is part of the Groundwater Protection Rule. These teams will be made up of farmers, agronomists, and other community members, and they will review, consider, and advise the MDA on appropriate practices or requirements for nitrate reduction strategies.

These are two of what will likely be many opportunities for those in agriculture to collaborate with the MDA in 2020. I encourage you to share your opinions with us, because we can build a stronger ag economy and improve our environmental resources by working together.

PFMD Update

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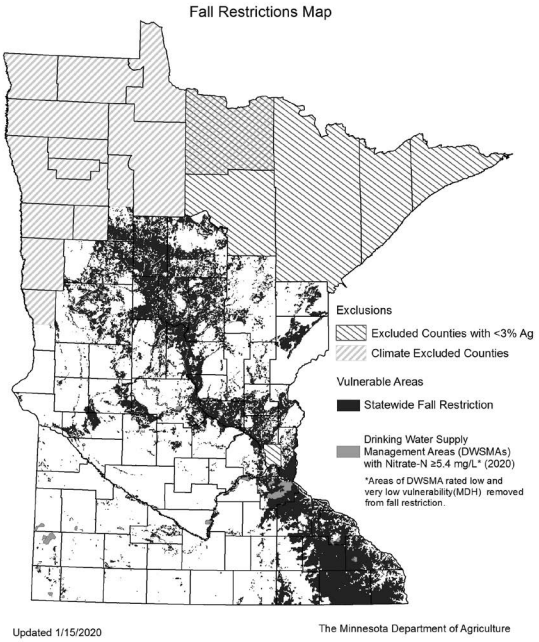
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide comprehensive, accurate information about the MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division's events, programs, policies and regulations. No endorsement is intended or implied of products or companies mentioned within. Printing and postage is paid for by the Pesticide Regulatory Account.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Groundwater Protection Rule: Fall Application Restrictions Begin in September

Larry Gunderson, Fertilizer Management Unit Supervisor



The Groundwater Protection Rule minimizes potential fertilizer sources of nitrate pollution to the state's groundwater and works with local farmers to prevent public water supply wells from exceeding the drinking water standard for nitrate. The rule was developed following a multi-year process with extensive stakeholder input.

The rule restricts the application of nitrogen fertilizer in the fall and to frozen soil in areas vulnerable to contamination beginning September 1, 2020. This will also apply to Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) with elevated nitrate. On January 15, 2020, the MDA finalized the map showing the vulnerable groundwater areas and DWSMAs the rule will apply to. Vulnerable groundwater areas include coarse textured soils, karst geology, and shallow bedrock. Approximately 12 to 13% of Minnesota's cropland is vulnerable.

Additionally, in DWSMAs with nitrate greater than or equal to 8 mg/L (parts per million), the MDA will begin forming local advisory teams with local farmers, agronomists, and other local members. The teams will be involved in reviewing, considering, and advising the MDA on appropriate management practices to reduce nitrate in community water systems. Local advisory teams are important because the goal is to involve local farmers and agronomists in problem-solving to address elevated levels of nitrate in groundwater.

The MDA's website has more information, including maps and a list of DWSMAs impacted by the rule: www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr.

For more information, please contact Larry Gunderson at 651-201-6168, Larry.Gunderson@state.mn.us.

Cyanazine Degradate Detections in Groundwater

Heather Johnson, Hydrologist

Cyanazine is a triazine herbicide that was mainly used on corn in Minnesota until 2002, when registration was cancelled. In response to reported detections of cyanazine breakdown products (degradates) in groundwater, the MDA began analyzing surface water and groundwater samples for cyanazine degradates in 2019. Over 1,600 water samples were collected in 2019 from locations across the state. Cyanazine degradates were detected in Minnesota's surface water and groundwater, including private drinking water wells, sometimes over the human-health risk limit (HRL) of 1 microgram per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion (ppb).

As part of the sampling efforts in 2019, the MDA also evaluated the effectiveness of reverse osmosis filtration systems to remove pesticides from private well drinking water. Results from the 44 systems evaluated indicated reverse osmosis systems were very effective at removing nearly all pesticides, including the cyanazine degradates, along with significant reductions in nitrate concentration.

In 2020, the MDA will continue sampling and analyzing for cyanazine degradates through its monitoring programs and is coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide homeowners with specific guidance when cyanazine degradates are detected in private wells above the HRL.

For more information, please contact Heather Johnson at 651-201-6098, Heather.Johnson@state.mn.us.

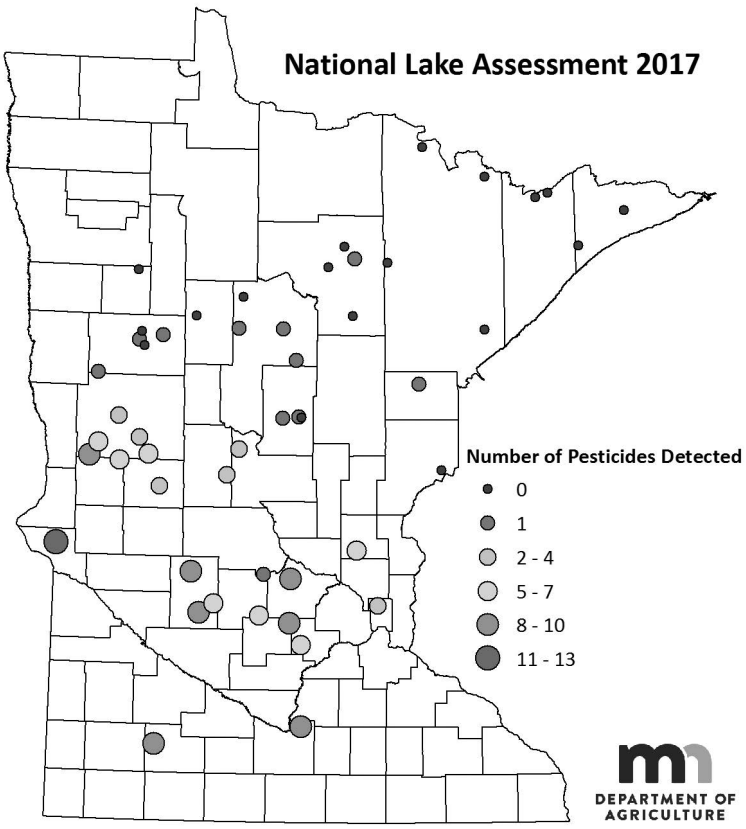
National Lakes Assessment Report

David Tollefson, Hydrologist

The MDA recently released an overview of pesticide monitoring in lakes across Minnesota. Pesticide water quality samples were collected from randomly selected lakes in Minnesota in 2007, 2012, and 2017 in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Lake Assessment. Except for two detections of the insecticide chlorpyrifos in 2017, the concentrations of all other pesticides detected were very low compared to applicable water quality reference values. Most detections were herbicides or herbicide degradates. The study found that the number of pesticide compounds detected, and associated concentrations of those compounds, increased as the amount of row crop production in a lakeshed went up. In contrast, larger amounts of forest land in a lakeshed led to fewer pesticide detections and lower pesticide concentrations. Many of the same pesticides were detected, and there was little variability in the concentration of these detected pesticides, in the samples that were collected from 2007, 2012, and 2017.

The full report, "Pesticides in Minnesota Lakes," is available in the Minnesota Digital Water Resources Library (https://wrl.mnpals.net/islandora/object/WRLrepository:3462).

For more information, please contact David Tollefson at 507-206-2882, David.Tollefson@state.mn.us.

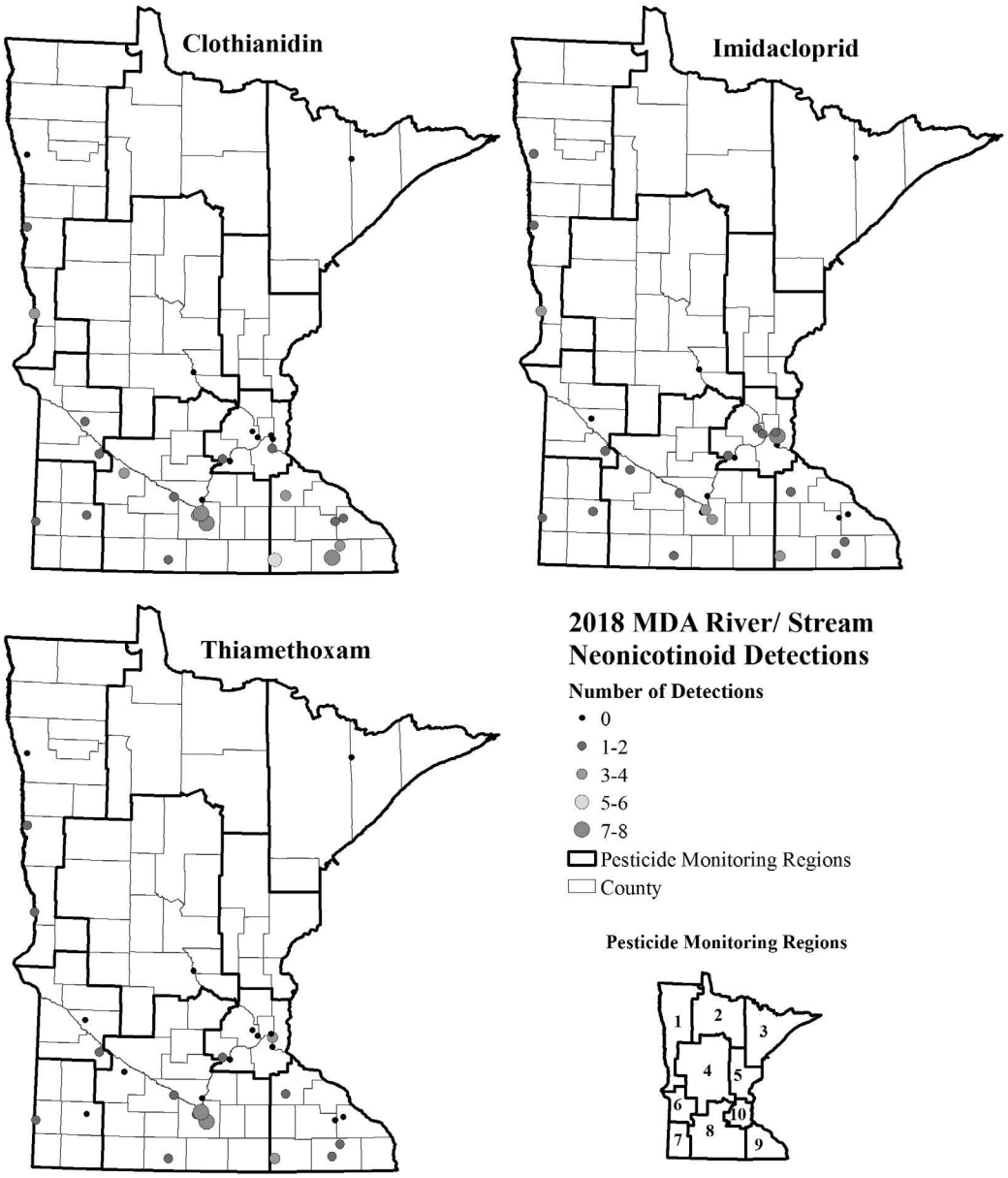


Neonicotinoids in Surface Water

David Tollefson, Hydrologist

Neonicotinoids are one of the most widely applied classes of insecticides in the world. Uses in Minnesota include agricultural seed treatments and foliar applications, commercial pest control, and home and garden uses. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently lowered the aquatic life benchmarks for three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) indicating some of the neonicotinoids are toxic to aquatic life at very low concentrations. The MDA monitoring has detected these three neonicotinoids in rivers and streams in Minnesota at concentrations above the new EPA benchmarks.

The MDA collected 284 water samples for neonicotinoid analysis in 2018. Clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam were detected at least once in 50 to 67% of the 30 river or stream locations that were monitored. Most of the clothianidin (97%) and thiamethoxam (89%) detections occurred in agricultural watersheds. Imidacloprid detections occurred in both agricultural (71%) and urban watersheds (29%). In 2018, clothianidin and imidacloprid were detected above EPA aquatic life benchmarks in 10% and 13% of surface water samples, respectively. The MDA expanded neonic monitoring efforts in 2019 and these results will be summarized in the Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report to be released in 2020. In response to the increase in detections above the EPA aquatic life benchmarks, the Commissioner of Agriculture made a preliminary decision to designate them as "Surface Water Pesticides of Concern" in Minnesota. This designation is open for public comment and more information is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/surface-water-pesticide-water-quality-monitoring.



For more information, please contact David Tollefson at 507-206-2882, David.Tollefson@state.mn.us.

Neonicotinoid Best Management Practices

Trisha Leaf, Research Scientist

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for neonicotinoid insecticides have been developed for treated seed, soil and foliar use, and home and residential use with an emphasis on pollinator protection. These voluntary BMPs were developed in response to a special registration review on neonicotinoids completed by the MDA in 2016. Many of the promoted practices that protect pollinators have an added benefit of protecting water quality.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has made a preliminary decision to designate three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) as "Surface Water Pesticides of Concern" due to frequent detections in surface waters at concentrations that exceed the EPA's surface water Aquatic Life Benchmarks (ALBs) in recent years. This designation is open for public comment and more information is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/surface-water-pesticide-water-quality-monitoring. The EPA recently lowered the ALBs for these three neonicotinoids. The proposed determination as "surface water pesticides of concern" includes a requirement to develop and promote water quality BMPs for these three neonicotinoid insecticides. Given that neonicotinoid BMPs have already been developed for pollinator protection, the MDA may reformat these BMPs to address water quality as well. To view the current neonicotinoid BMPs visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/best-management-practices-pollinators-their-habitat

For more information, please contact Trisha Leaf, 651-201-6588, Trisha.Leaf@state.mn.us.

Permit Required for Fertilizer or Pesticide Application by Irrigation

Jeff Lorentz, Agricultural Advisor

Chemigation is the application of a fertilizer (fertigation) or pesticide (fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, etc.) through an irrigation system. Chemigation systems include field irrigation (i.e. center pivots), greenhouses, nurseries, and golf courses or athletic fields.

In Minnesota, operators of irrigation systems that desire to utilize chemigation are required by law to obtain a chemigation permit from the MDA. In addition, permit holders must follow the permit requirements prior to making a chemigation application. Random inspections are conducted by the MDA to verify compliance. Currently there are over 3,200 chemigation permits on file for the state.

Operators complete a one-time application and pay a one-time fee per site for a chemigation permit. (Fertilizer-only chemigation fee = $50, Fertilizer and pesticide chemigation fee = $250).

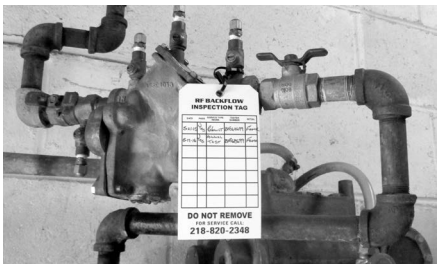
There are two ways to apply for a permit:

1. Submit a paper application and payment by mail to the MDA. Download the application at: www.mda.state.mn.us/chemigation-permit-program

2. Apply and submit payment online
   Apply online at: www.mda.state.mn.us/licenses
   Keyword search: Chemigation

For more information, please contact Jeff Lorentz at 320-223-6547 or Jeffrey.Lorentz@state.mn.us.

Center Pivot irrigation system equipped with two back-check valves for the application of fertilizers and/or pesticides when connected to a non-potable water supply.



Greenhouse irrigation system equipped with a Reduced Pressure Principle device (RPP or RPZ) for chemigation when connected to a potable water supply.

Use of Dicamba in Dicamba-Tolerant (DT) Soybean Crops in 2020

Matt Sunseri, Pesticide Management Unit Supervisor

Persons that use the new dicamba products in Minnesota in 2020 must adhere to three sets of legal requirements: 1) the current federal label (revised for 2019-2020); 2) the additional use restriction set forth in the Special Local Needs Registration by the MDA; and, 3) the applicator requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. Users must take care to ensure they follow all three sets of legal requirements.

The affected formulations are only the dicamba products labeled for use while the DT soybean crop is in the field: XtendiMax by Monsanto, Engenia by BASF, FeXapan by DuPont, and Tavium by Syngenta.

Applicators must obtain and comply with the 2019-2020 federal label. All older versions of the label have expired and cannot be used. Features of the 2019-2020 federal label include:

- Label expiration date of December 20, 2020.
- Applicators must complete label-required training prior to using these products in 2020, even if they completed training in 2019. The label-required training is separate from applicator requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. For information about dicamba training, visit the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers website at: mcpr-cca.org/dicamba-information-trainings/
- In-crop application of dicamba more than 45 days after planting is now prohibited. This means applicators now can only apply dicamba in-crop 45 days or less after planting, before beginning bloom (R1 stage), or until the Minnesota cutoff date of June 20, 2020. Whichever cutoff time occurs first will determine how late in the season a person can apply dicamba.
- Applications can only occur from one hour after sunrise to two hours before sunset.
- A new 57-foot buffer in certain counties where endangered species may exist.

Applicators must also obtain and comply with the new 2020 Minnesota Special Local Need label for the product they are using. All older versions of the Minnesota label have expired and cannot be used. The 2020 Minnesota labels are available at www.mda.state.mn.us/fifra-section-24c-special-local-need. The decision follows the MDA's ongoing investigation into reports of crop damage from alleged dicamba off-target movement. The Minnesota label restriction for the 2020 growing season is:

- Cutoff date: Do not apply after June 20, 2020.

For current information visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/dicamba-frequently-asked-questions-faq

Given each product is a Restricted Use Pesticide, they are subject to the requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. An applicator must first hold a Commercial or Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator License or a Private Pesticide Applicator Certification to purchase and apply these products. Additionally, licensed Commercial/Noncommercial applicators must meet the record keeping requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. The MDA maintains samples of these records online. These requirements differ from the EPA label restrictions. Applicators must meet the state and federally mandated record keeping requirements for Restricted Use Pesticides.

For more information, please contact Matt Sunseri at 651-201-6292, Matthew.Sunseri@state.mn.us.

Maintaining Concrete Secondary Containment Systems

Greg Harding, Consultant

The MDA issues bulk storage permits for secondary containment systems designed to safeguard bulk liquid pesticides and fertilizers, including load pads, in the event of an incident.

MDA inspectors have documented moderate to large cracks in the concrete of some permitted systems. These documented cracks are a permit violation and the facility is required to repair them in a timely fashion. A financial penalty could also be accessed depending on the severity of the cracks.

Facilities are also required by law to conduct monthly inspections during the use season. If cracks are found, the facility should be prepared to repair the crack right away. Repairs should be both effective and long lasting.

If your firm makes the repair, you should familiarize yourself with the proper procedures. There are YouTube videos that can be helpful to show the proper steps and techniques to use when repairing various cracks.

Due to pesticide and fertilizer compatibility, selecting the proper sealant is important. We suggest you refer to our Crack Repair Factsheet or call our office for recommendations.

As concrete safeguards get older, it is critical to stay on top of maintenance and repairs so the safeguard will perform properly during an incident or spill.

The factsheet and additional permitting and storage information are available at: www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/bulk-pesticide-storage

For more information, please contact Greg Harding at 651-201-6274, Greg.Harding@state.mn.us, or Matthew Parins at 651-201-6587, Matthew.Parins@state.mn.us

Maintaining Anhydrous Ammonia Equipment and Storage Facilities for Safe Use

Ed Kaiser, Consultant

To enhance the safe and compliant use of anhydrous ammonia (NH3) during the upcoming planting season, the MDA encourages farmers and dealers to perform self-inspections and maintenance of NH3 equipment and storage facilities. A number of resources are available to assist you. View the self-inspection checklists, factsheets, and other resources either electronically or by attending a compliance/safety workshop.

1. View online at: www.mda.state.mn.us/NH3
2. View the USB thumb drive distributed by the MDA.
3. Attend one of the NH3 compliance/safety workshops:
   - March 10, 2020 – Community Center, Dodge Center, MN
   - March 11, 2020 – United Farmers Coop, Winthrop, MN
   - March 12, 2020 – Southwest Research & Outreach Center, Lamberton, MN
   - March 24, 2020 – CHS Ag Services, Warren, MN
   - March 25, 2020 – West Central Research & Outreach Center, Morris, MN.

For more information, please contact the following MDA staff:

Ed Kaiser, 651-201-6275,
Ed.Kaiser@state.mn.us

Jeffrey Lorentz, 320-223-6547,
Jeffrey.Lorentz@state.mn.us

Bob Rialson, 507-746-4483,
Bob.Rialson@state.mn.us

Prevent Anhydrous Ammonia Releases

Pat Kelly, Consultant

Any release of anhydrous ammonia (NH3) nitrogen fertilizer has the potential to harm you, your employees, or your neighbors. The following is a list of incidents that occur during storage, transportation, and application:

STORAGE: Most NH3 releases occur when a valve on a parked nurse tank is not seated properly. When a nurse tank is returned from the field, the valves may not have been adequately tightened. As temperatures fluctuate during the day, valves may unseat and release NH3.

TRANSPORTATION: Transported nurse tanks can tip if towed too close to a road ditch. Also, a sharp turn when entering a field access can roll a nurse tank. These accidents can cause damage to the nurse tank and exterior components (i.e. valves, etc.) that may result in an NH3 release. Even if a rollover causes no NH3 release, an overturned tank still poses an immediate threat of a release. A threatened release must be reported to the Duty Officer (800-422-0798).

FIELD APPLICATION: The most common field application incident is when a nurse tank separates from the toolbar. If the break-away coupler does not break apart, the withdrawal hose stretches and tears or the nurse tank withdrawal valve breaks off. Break-away couplers must be installed correctly to break apart and stop the flow of NH3.

Releases during field application can also occur when the withdrawal hose is the wrong length. A hose that is too long can be pinched or rub on equipment causing it to rupture. A hose that is too short is prone to stretching and tearing. A hose should not touch hitch components/connections and should not stretch when making turns. The use of hose supports is discouraged. If hose supports are needed, the hose is too long and should be replaced. During over the road transport, disconnect and secure the withdrawal hose.

Four simple ways to reduce NH3 incidents:

- Tighten nurse tank valves and check regularly even when tanks are empty or not in use;
- Be attentive when towing and cornering nurse tanks to prevent rollovers;
- Frequently examine and test the break-away coupler; and,
- Ensure the withdrawal hose is the correct length.

For more information about emergency preparedness contact Pat Kelly at 651-201-6387 or patrick.kelly@state.mn.us.

Waste Pesticide Disposal Program Reminders

Jane Boerboom, Facility Management Unit Supervisor

The MDA is working with a variety of partners to offer convenient and efficient disposal of waste pesticides. Farmers, homeowners, and businesses can dispose of agricultural and household waste pesticides that include weed and feed products, herbicides, and fungicides. Please note the following are not accepted: fertilizer, pesticide and fertilizer rinsates, empty pesticide containers, treated seed, foam/dye markers, and crop oils.

View a list of collection locations at: www.mda.state.mn.us/wastepesticideschedule

For more information, please contact Jane Boerboom at 651-201-6540, Jane.Boerboom@state.mn.us, or your county solid waste office.

Recent MDA, Pesticide & Fertilizer Management Division, Enforcement Actions

Corinne duPreez, Agricultural Advisor

St. Paul, MN

A pesticide registrant and supplier paid a $3,600 penalty for handling a pesticide in a manner that endangered humans and caused adverse effects to the environment. The applicator failed to follow label directions by mixing chlorine with an acid to disinfect a swimming pool that resulted in a chemical reaction at a seasonal recreational vehicle park. The applicator additionally failed to wear all label-required personal protective equipment and the company failed to immediately report the incident.

Park Rapids, MN

An agricultural facility with a pesticide dealer license paid a $1,500 penalty for improperly disposing of pesticide and fertilizer wash water that resulted in environmental contamination. The water was generated from washing pesticide and fertilizer application equipment.

White Bear Lake, MN

A commercial produce farm and greenhouse with a certified private pesticide applicator paid a $2,050 penalty for failing to provide Worker Protection Standard safety training to multiple workers, to display the thirty-day pesticide application record and hazard information, to display pesticide safety information in a central location for workers, and to have unlined chemical resistant gloves.

Pennington, MN

A county department with a licensed commercial pesticide applicator paid a $750 penalty for applying pesticides to rights-of-way in a manner resulting in pesticide drift and damage to property.

Brooklyn Center, MN

An aquatic plant management company paid a $2,500 penalty for applying a pesticide to water in excess of the labeled rate for three applications and for providing a false statement.

Annandale, MN

A farming operation with a certified private pesticide applicator paid a $1,000 penalty for applying XtendiMax with Vapor Grip Technology after the state specific June 20 cutoff date restriction.

Sebeka, MN

An agricultural facility paid a $1,000 penalty for storing pesticide mini-bulks without adequate safeguards.

Gilman, MN

An agricultural facility paid a $3,500 penalty for repacking bulk pesticides without a pesticide producer establishment number, distributing pesticides that were not registered in Minnesota, repackaging and selling open and unsealed pesticide containers, and selling bulk pesticides without a Minnesota pesticide dealer license.

Benson, MN

An agricultural chemical facility with a pesticide dealer license paid a $500 penalty for failing to properly maintain the containment concrete floor and curbing in their permitted pesticide secondary containment storage area.

Medina, MN

A structural pest control company with a licensed commercial pesticide applicator and structural pest control applicator paid a $1,750 penalty for applying a restricted use pesticide off-label in a residential home that allowed access to the pesticide. The applicator also failed to immediately remove personal protective equipment (PPE) as required and prior to making additional pesticide applications in other homes.

Sartell, MN

A lawn care facility with a licensed commercial pesticide applicator paid a $1,000 penalty for applying pesticides to two residential properties that were not requested, ordered, or contracted for application.

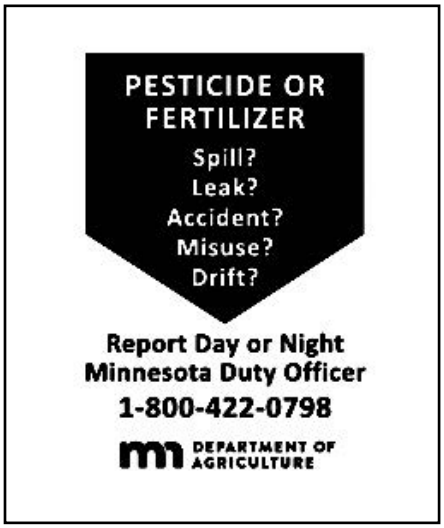
Fertilizers are Ag Chemicals Too

Lucia Hunt, Emergency Response Unit Supervisor

Fertilizers are considered agricultural chemicals and fall under the same reporting requirements as pesticide spills. Any release or threat of release of fertilizers into the environment that can cause unreasonable damage is considered an incident. For example, if a tote falls off the back of a truck but doesn't rupture, it is still considered an incident. Incidents can be due to a natural disaster, transportation accident, container rupture, leaky equipment, or improper disposal of fertilizers.

All incidents must be reported to the Minnesota Duty Officer who will put you in touch with the Department of Agriculture On-Call Team. The Team will ask for details about the incident, help you clean it up properly, and advise you on how to dispose of any waste and land apply impacted soil or water. Fines may be assessed by the MDA if a firm doesn't report a spill.

All ag chemical spills must be reported, this includes both pesticides and fertilizers. Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and bactericides and fertilizers include products that deliver essential nutrients to enhance plant growth.



Incidents of Interest: Causes, Cleanup, and Prevention

Pat Kelly, Consultant

Learning from others can be key to preventing an ag chemical incident. The following incident summaries are shared to inform you of potential risks and the steps needed for an incident response. Remember, all incidents are to be reported to the MDA by telephoning the MN Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.

For more information, please contact Pat Kelly at 651-201-6387, Patrick.Kelly@state.mn.us, or Lucy Hunt at 651-201-6637, Lucia.Hunt@state.mn.us.

- A sprayer left their farm with a tank mix of 750 gallons of water and 17 gallons of Volley herbicide. The tank straps failed, causing the tank to drop and leak upon impact. The driver quickly turned around and made it back to their gravel yard but could not stop the release. A skid steer was used to create a berm around the liquid. Over half of the tank mix was recovered and sprayed. Impacted soil/gravel was excavated and stored. Later the pile was sampled to determine the land application rate.

- A hose disconnected from a shuttle tank while being driven along a county road. Approximately 225 gallons of dicamba released over about 12 miles. A southerly wind caused the dicamba to drift over fields of non-dicamba tolerant soybeans. The MDA used a drone to determine the extent of the soybean damage.

- Heavy rains caused an ag facility to flood. Both the dry fertilizer bulk plant and the pesticide storage shed retained flood waters. Thankfully, there was no observed release of any ag chemicals. The firm managed to collect/pump all water from the buildings and store until the recovered water could be analyzed. Once the analysis was known, the water could be land applied or properly disposed of.

Flooded pesticide storage shed.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Recognizing Outstanding Farmers through MAWQCP Endorsements

Danielle Isaacson, Program Operations Coordinator

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) has launched three new endorsements in addition to the 10-year certification a farmer or landowner receives in the program. The MAWQCP endorsements available to water quality certified producers are for soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife. The MAWQCP partnered with various non-profit organizations, such as Pheasants Forever and the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, and state agencies to develop the endorsements. Certified producers who achieve an endorsement will receive an additional sign for their farm and recognition for their conservation excellence. To learn more, contact your local MAWQCP Area Certification Specialist (MyLandMyLegacy.com).

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. In addition, certified producers have special access to financial assistance. As of February 2020, over 830 producers managing 565,000 acres in Minnesota have achieved water quality certification.

For more information, please contact Brad Jordahl Redlin at 651-201-6489, Brad.Jordahlredlin@state.mn.us.